This is an exciting time to be embarking on a career in law. While understanding the foundation of law practice will always be important, today there is a growing urgency for attorneys to enter practice with a more robust knowledge of the area in which they will work. The model for how we prepare attorneys is transforming, and you have an opportunity to benefit from that change.

To prepare attorneys who want to make a vital difference in the practice of health law, as general counsels of hospitals, at the policy-making level and at all levels of government, as well as in work for private companies, the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health has partnered with the IU McKinney School of Law to offer two educational programs that combine a JD degree with training in public health. The programs can be completed concurrently with your law education, giving you expanded career options upon graduation and throughout your career.

Why Add Public Health To Your Education?

With a Master of Health Administration (MHA) or a Master of Public Health (MPH), you not only are qualified for interesting and meaningful work, but you are prepared to speak the language of both law and health, making you more marketable for a wide variety of careers, including health law, biomedical ethics, public policy issues and health administration. A joint degree provides interdisciplinary training that allows you to bridge the gap between two fields and more effectively find solutions to complex problems.

About Our Programs

Both joint degree programs are designed to be completed in four years. Because this is a coordinated program, a number of the 45 required credits are shared with JD credits. The MHA program is the only CAHME accredited program in Indiana. The MPH program is accredited by CEPH.

JD-MHA (Master of Health Administration)

The JD-MHA degree addresses the need for professionals who understand the legal and administrative frameworks necessary to function successfully as health lawyers or health services administrators. The program consists of 36 credit hours of required courses, six credit hours of electives and three credit hours of research in health administration which is completed in the last year of the combined program and jointly supervised by advisors from both schools.

JD-MPH (Master of Public Health)

JD-MPH students choose one concentration from among the five core areas of public health: Biostatistics, Environmental Health Science, Epidemiology, Health Policy and Management or Social and Behavioral Sciences. The innovative curriculum addresses key issues driving public health practice and policy today, including infectious disease control, injury control, and chronic disease prevention and health promotion. For convenience and flexibility, the five core MPH classes are offered online. Experiential components provide opportunities to apply learning in projects and research that directly impact the health of communities. Projects can be undertaken anywhere in Indiana and through IU global health partnerships.

Application Process

Full admission criteria, application instructions and deadlines can be found at www.pbhealth.iupui.edu. Individuals must independently apply and be accepted into both the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health and the IU McKinney School of Law. MPH students may begin in either the Fall or Spring semester. MHA students will begin only in the Fall semester.

For More Information

To learn more about the JD-MHA and JD-MPH degrees, visit www.pbhealth.iupui.edu or call the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at (317) 274-3126. For questions about the JD-MHA program, please e-mail Paul Lang, MPA, at plang@iu.edu. For questions about the JD-MPH program, please e-mail Ross Silverman, JD, MPH, at rdsilver@iu.edu.
ELIZABETH WALKER, JD, MHA
ECG Management Consultants, Inc.
Senior Manager

“I’ve always been interested in the healthcare industry. I was accepted to IU School of Medicine and intended to begin my studies after a “year off” at law school. I found myself very much at home in the study of the law and stumbled upon the MHA program as I sought ways to broaden my healthcare knowledge. The quality of adjunct instructors in Indianapolis is hard to beat. I had a wide range of teachers, including a health system CEO and Hall Render attorney. Another benefit of the Indianapolis location is the opportunity to try out meaningful internships. I took advantage of every healthcare-related internship the law school had to offer.

The MHA program provides me with another way of thinking that will complement my JD, whether in a law firm, hospital, or other setting. If you have an interest in healthcare and legal thinking. The professors are knowledgeable and willing to help, and the schedule is doable, with law classes during the day and MHA classes in the evening. The MHA provides me with another way of thinking that will complement my JD, whether in a law firm, hospital, or other setting. If you have an interest in healthcare and legal thinking. The professors are knowledgeable and willing to help, and the schedule is doable, with law classes during the day and MHA classes in the evening. The MHA program supports the connection between these two disciplines and creates public health advocates prepared to promote public health initiatives. The JD-MHA program has allowed me to pursue an opportunity to have a very unique and valuable skill-set that appeals to both law firms and healthcare networks. The JD-MHA program has allowed me to pursue an opportunity to have a very unique and valuable skill-set that appeals to both law firms and healthcare networks. The JD-MHA program has allowed me to pursue an opportunity to have a very unique and valuable skill-set that appeals to both law firms and healthcare networks.

The MHA credential is meaningful in the healthcare field. Having an MHA degree indicates to other healthcare professionals that I am dedicated to improving our healthcare community. Having an MHA degree in addition to my JD was crucial to becoming a hospital vice president at age 28.

The investment you make now to obtain these degrees will pay huge dividends for the rest of your life. Additional time in school and more tuition are small prices to pay for having a career you love. Having a JD and MHA has given me tremendous flexibility and opportunity as I have progressed in my career. The foundation this education has provided has prepared me well to handle whatever changes this disruptive healthcare landscape presents now and in the future.”

Zach Hudson
JD-MHA Student

“The JD-MHA is, and will remain, an extremely valuable asset within an ever-changing healthcare market. The program provides a great blend of both administrative and legal thinking. The professors are knowledgeable and willing to help, and the schedule is doable, with law classes during the day and MHA classes in the evening. The MHA provides me with another way of thinking that will complement my JD, whether in a law firm, hospital, or other setting. If you have an interest in healthcare and know that healthcare is where you want to take your career, I would suggest seriously considering the JD-MHA.”

Marcella Gregory
JD-MPH Student

“Four years ago, a law dual degree program was almost unheard of, especially a JD-MPH. The fact that the IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health was among the few that offered this innovative program and it was located in a dynamic metropolitan area solidified my desire to become a student. Acquiring two professional degrees in four years was an amazing opportunity I would do again. This program offers a wide range of classes during the year and great options during the summer. The professors are knowledgeable on the subjects they teach and genuinely want to see you succeed. Through the courses I’ve taken, I know I’m meant to be a public health lawyer. I want to analyze the way in which law is used as a tool to promote public health initiatives. The JD-MPH program supports the connection between these two disciplines and creates public health advocates prepared to improve quality of life. This past summer I worked for the CDC in their public health law program – they hire only interns currently in a dual degree JD-MPH program.”

Kreigh Cook
JD-MHA Student

“Combining the law and MHA curricula offered me the opportunity to have a very unique and valuable skill-set that appeals to both law firms and healthcare networks. The JD-MHA program has allowed me to pursue internships in law, as well as healthcare administration, while maintaining a full-time class schedule. The MHA offers me a better understanding of healthcare administration, which facilitates better legal counsel. If you have an interest in health law and policy, as well as administration, don’t miss out on the opportunity to gain a competitive edge in the job market.”

Allison Potenza
JD-MHA Student

“After college, I knew I wanted to be involved in healthcare policy, but I didn’t know what career opportunities were available. When I learned about the JD-MHA joint degree, I knew it was perfect because it would give me an opportunity to focus my passion in a highly marketable way. The JD-MHA program gives students great real-world experience that is so essential to career development. In my three years in the program, I have completed an externship at a hospital, been a research assistant for a renowned health law professor, worked in a health law firm, and will soon have the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. for an internship at the Department of Health and Human Services. I have made invaluable connections with friends, professors, and practitioners in the field. I believe these opportunities are putting me on a path toward a successful and fulfilling career. I would encourage anyone who is serious about a career in healthcare law and management to consider the JD-MHA program. Although it is a challenging experience, it has definitely been worthwhile.”

The investment you make now to obtain these degrees will pay huge dividends for the rest of your life. Additional time in school and more tuition are small prices to pay for having a career you love. Having a JD and MHA has given me tremendous flexibility and opportunity as I have progressed in my career. The foundation this education has provided has prepared me well to handle whatever changes this disruptive healthcare landscape presents now and in the future.”